



For Immediate Release

CINCINNATI WINS INNOVATION AWARD FROM OHIO CONFERENCE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The City of Cincinnati will receive the 2002 President's Award for Innovative Programs from the Ohio Conference of Community Development at its annual meeting in Coshocton, Ohio, according to OCCD President Harry Conard.

The City of Cincinnati is receiving this award for its involvement with the City West redevelopment within the City's West End neighborhood. City West is the transformation of the former Lincoln Court and Laurel Homes public housing projects into a mixed-income community. The new community consists of 1,085 newly constructed townhomes including 250 units for homeownership.

With the support and partnership of the City of Cincinnati and the Resident Councils for both Lincoln Court and Laurel Homes, the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority was successful in attracting HUD HOPE VI funds for the revitalization of the obsolete public housing projects. The City's innovative involvement consisted of providing \$15 million of HUD 108 Loan funds, Community Development Block Grant funds, HOME Program funds and City Capital Funds in a combination of grants and loans. The funding provided by the City covers diverse uses including infrastructure improvements, construction cost reductions, parks and greenspace enhancements, neighborhood business development, new recreation opportunities, and affordable and market rate housing. In addition, the City will provide property tax abatement for 15 years on the improvements and has created a Tax Incentive Financing District for the project that will allow funding for related, ongoing neighborhood improvements.

OCCD President Conard said, "The statewide competition for the President's Award was extremely intense this year; but the creative use of public resources by the City of Cincinnati clearly put them on top. The award has added significance because the judges that selected Cincinnati's City West redevelopment project are also community development professionals from across Ohio."

The City of Cincinnati received the OCCD President's Award in 2000 for its support to Smart Money Community Services and in 1998 for the Neighborhoods Gardens Program. "These recognitions signify that Cincinnati has been consistently creating innovative programs to meet local community needs," President Conard stated.

The Ohio Conference of Community Development is a statewide professional association of over 165 members dedicated to enhancing the livability of cities, towns and communities of the state of Ohio.

OCCD President Harry Conard is the Business Administrator for Cuyahoga County's Department of Development and may be reached at (216) 443-7260 for further comment.